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SKETCHES OF DISTINGUISHED QUACKS.

[Communicated for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.]

In this enlightened age, when the school-master is abroad and the march of mind is so rapid that we can scarcely trap its footsteps, quackery seems to rise triumphant in all her glory. Much has recently been written upon this subject, both in separate treatises and in the foreign medical journals. As no writer, however, seems to have touched upon the history of those characters of ancient and modern times, who have most distinguished themselves for their ingenuity in the various departments of this science, some notices of the most remarkable among them may not be unamusing. It is a subject for regret that talents should be wasted by being forgotten; and some valuable hints may perhaps be derived from the memoirs of these honorable gentry, for the benefit of the younger members of the medical profession.

The origin of medical quackery is probably as ancient as the origin of medicine. Among the earliest who practised this profession, if I may so style what a modern writer would call one of the departments in the Empire of Rascaldom, was Thessalus, self-styled the "conqueror of physicians." He was a man of low origin, and commenced his career in the manner of his brethren of those days and his successors in these, by claiming the discovery of a new theory of medicine, which was to lead to a more correct practice, and supersede all further discoveries. He was by no means remiss in his endeavors, also, to heap contempt upon his rivals and his predecessors. His dexterity enabled him to acquire immense wealth.

But a much more distinguished character was Alexander, commemorated by Lucian, who flourished nearly at the same period with Thessalus. From his history we learn that the art of reading sealed letters is by no means of recent discovery, but existed as far back as the time of Lucian, many ages before the science of animal magnetism was heard of.

Whilst he was travelling with a friend, Alexander came to a town where they saw a brood of large serpents, which were so tame that they were kept and fed by the females of the place. They purchased one of the most beautiful, and kept him carefully for their future operations. Soon after they had the good fortune to dig up, in an ancient temple of Apollo, some brass tablets upon which was an inscription that in a very short time Apollo, with his son Esculapius, would come and

take up their residence in Alexander's birth place. These tablets were shown, and the report of the speedy advent of the two divinities, rapidly spread throughout the country. An oracle was next established and uttered various mysterious predictions, some of which hinted at the name of Alexander.

In the mean time his companion died and left him to bring to maturity and reap the full advantages of the scheme they had so ingeniously commenced. He now counterfeited madness, which in those days was considered to be inspiration. He thus attracted a great degree of attention. All being now prepared for his debut, he took a small serpent and introduced it into an egg, through a small opening which was afterwards carefully stopped and concealed with a mixture of white lead and wax. Taking the egg thus prepared, he went at midnight to the foundations of a temple which had just been laid under his auspices, and were now overflooded with water. Here he hid the egg in the mud.

The next day, Alexander, having only a girdle of gold about his waist, rushed into the market place, harangued the people, sung hymns in honor of Apollo and Æsculapius, and rushed furiously towards the temple, followed by all the spectators and auditors. He plunged instantly into the mud, called for a cup, clapped it under the water, and exclaimed that he had caught the god Æsculapius. Raising the cup, he exhibited the egg, which on being broken was found to contain the serpent. Not a doubt was felt by the people, who were unbounded in their acclamations and expressions of joy that the medical divinity had come among them.

On the following morning he received the visits of the people, seated in an apartment properly arranged for effect, and gorgeously arrayed. A serpent of great size and beauty was seen partly concealed beneath his robes, and partly twisting himself in playful coils about his neck and upper part of his body. If anything had been wanting to complete the astonishment of the beholders, the growth of Æsculapius within a single day was sufficient. The full extent of Alexander's pretensions was admitted, and he became universally resorted to on all occasions where the opinion of an oracle was required. The questions proposed to him were written and carefully sealed up. He took them into a different apartment, and speedily returned them with the answers written, but the seals apparently untouched. If any one had before doubted, he was now convinced; since how could any mere mortal read through the thick folds of a carefully-sealed letter?

Lucian, who is well known to have been a confirmed sceptic, and a despiser of the gods, pretends that when Alexander took the letters into another room, he had ready a heated needle which he introduced between the seal and the paper, and thus opened the letter without destroying the impression. He kept at hand, also, a composition which he employed to take off the impression, so that the letter could be resealed without the seal appearing to have been touched. The English translator of Lucian refers those who wish to be further acquainted with the methods of opening sealed letters, to the clerks of the post office. We might refer them to the subjects of animal magnetism.

Alexander now practised with perfect success, giving oracles and curing all manner of diseases.

An empiric better known to the medical world, was Bombastus Paracelsus, who combined real knowledge and talent with the basest quackery. He was supposed to keep a familiar spirit enclosed in the handle of his sword. Butler tells us that,

"Bombastus kept a devil's bird
Shut in the pommel of his sword,
Who taught him all the cunning pranks
Of past and future mountebanks."

He finally sunk into dissipation and drunkenness, and died in a hospital, at the age of forty-eight, with a bottle of the elixir vitæ which he had discovered at his bedside.

Of those among the alchemists who practised the baser arts of quackery, we have a most vivid portrait in Alasco, painted by the author of *Waverley*. The same pen has given us equally powerful delineations of the other varieties of empirics—astrologers such as Galleotti, the friend and counsellor of Louis XI.; adepts such as the German Dousterswivel; or gipsies and wise women such as Meg Merrilies and North of the Fitful Head. In all these specimens, knavery and self-deception appear combined in varying proportion, according to the greater or less honesty of the individual.

One of the latest who practised the art of astrology and combined it with medicine, was Wm. Lilly, the Sidrophel of Hudibras. He was artful enough to keep in favor both with the Court of Charles I. and the Parliament, and was consulted equally by cavaliers and roundheads. He was succeeded by Dr. Case, who seems to have acquired reputation and wealth by his skill in poetry, of which the following is a specimen.

"Here's fourteen pills for thirteen pence,
Enough in any man's own conscience."

Another branch of quackery was that of those who professed to cure scrofula by the touch. Of those who disputed the prerogative of royalty in this particular, the principal individual known to us was Valentine Greatrakes, an Irishman. He was a person of some fashion, and in 1662 he was struck with a strong persuasion that he had the power of curing the king's evil by stroking with his hand. In the course of time his powers increased to such a degree that he attempted the same process in all diseases, and with success. Many persons of distinction and some physicians gave him their certificates. He mentions several cripples sent to him from the hospital, who walked home without their crutches, to the admiration of all the people as well as the doctors.

A recent instance of successful quackery is exhibited in the history of St. John Long, which is too well known to need detail. He sold the secret of his famous liniment on his death bed for £10,000; and this liniment proves to be composed of acetic acid, yolk of eggs, oil of turpentine and pure water. Now its ingredients are known, it will probably soon share the fate of other nostrums and sink into oblivion.

An ingenious device practised recently in France has been related in some of the late medical journals. The result proves that the French courts are not so lenient in cases of quackery as the English and Ameri-

can have been proved to be, by the cases of St. John Long, Thomson, and others.

In February, 1837, three doctors, MM. Sabattier, Guerin and Neirac, set out from Paris on a tour for the purpose of giving gratuitous advice and selling their own medicines. They posted bills in the different towns they passed through, and among others at Orleans, bearing in large letters the words HIPPOCRATIC SOCIETY, and distributed pamphlets entitled "IMPROVEMENT OF PRACTICAL MEDICINE—MEDICAL DISCOVERY—SABATTIER'S MEXICAN SUGAR." The court at Orleans adjudged that, as these persons had called themselves physicians of a non-existent society—had put forth the mixture of jalap and sugar (the Mexican sugar) as a discovery, and excited hopes of cure by fraudulent methods, Sabattier should suffer two years' imprisonment and pay a fine of two thousand francs; Guerin, fifteen months' imprisonment and pay a fine of one thousand francs; and Neirac, a year's imprisonment with a fine of 600 francs.

Some of the Colleges of Health and other establishments among us of various attractive names and designations, would probably fare pretty severely if brought under notice of a French court of justice. It is, however, very doubtful whether any advantage is to be derived from penal prohibitions. There are persons so constituted that they almost necessarily resort to the unknown and the mysterious in preference to that the value of which is known. In the last century, Bolingbroke and Walpole, the two most powerful geniuses of their time—opposite as they were in their characters—both fell victims to medical quackery. In our city it finds its patrons among the most intelligent and best informed. They generally understand perfectly well the risk which they run—they are aware that for the chance of immediate benefit they endanger their constitutions and even lives.

The prevalence of quackery, the frequent resort to patent medicines, is certainly no detriment to the medical profession so far as profit is concerned. Like the use of ardent spirits, they impair the constitution to such a degree that almost constant medical attendance finally becomes necessary. The evil to physicians is, that the victims of quackery, like the victims of intemperance, are unsatisfactory subjects of treatment, from their systems being too much injured to be readily benefited by the most judiciously applied remedies.

The grand secret of quackery, we are told by a late writer, consists "in the marrying of Truth and Sham, so that these two become one flesh, man and wife, and generate these three, Profit, Pudding, and Respectability that always keeps her gig." E. W.

INTERMITTENT CHARACTER OF LOCAL DISEASES IN THE MARSHY DISTRICTS OF THE WEST.

To the Editor of the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.

DEAR SIR,—I have observed, during a short practice in the Wabash Valley, that several diseases, which I have never before known to observe

any regular intermission, partake of the regular periodicity of intermittent fever. I am not disposed to speculate upon, or attempt any explanation of such phenomena, further than facts will seem to sustain me. I will first record the cases which have come under my observation.

CASE I. Intermittent Dysentery.—Mrs. D., aged 20, was afflicted with intermittent fever of the tertian type for about six weeks during the latter part of the summer and commencement of the fall of 1838. By the use of the usual medicines she recovered, but was attacked in the course of a month subsequent with a violent dysentery. I was called upon in an hour after she was taken, and administered the blue pill and Dov. pulv., applying fomentations to the abdomen, and prohibiting anything to be taken in the way of nutriment but barley and chicken water. In less than three hours she was relieved, and the next day she was up and looked as hearty and spirited as could be expected. On the next day, however, greatly to my astonishment, she was again attacked with the dysentery, preceded by some chilliness, and attended with some fever. Her extremities, however, were cold. I ordered her calomel and ipecac. in small doses, to be continued every two hours until I should call, bathed her extremities in hot water, and directed the fomentations as before. In about six hours I left my office, with my cupping instruments in my hands, to visit my patient. Judge of my wonder when I met her at the door. She declared she felt as well as ever; "but doctor," inquired she, "don't you think my complaint will return day after to-morrow?" I was so struck with the force of her question, that I could scarcely give her an answer. I directed her to live abstemiously, and to take small portions of ext. tarax.

I returned to my office and reflected upon my patient's inquiry, and felt no little anxiety about the case. "Day after to-morrow" came, and with it a return of the dysentery. I was now satisfied of the intermittent character of the disease, and determined, as soon as the intermission came on, to commence the use of quinine, if circumstances would at all permit it. The paroxysm lasted for about three hours, immediately after which I observed, for the first time, a copious perspiration.

On the next morning, my patient feeling as well as she had during her previous intermissions, and her system being fully prepared for tonic medicine, I commenced the use of quinine in half grain doses every two hours. This was continued till night, and resumed the next morning. At the time for the paroxysm she had a very slight diarrhoea. The quinine was discontinued until the next day, when six grains were taken in divided portions. From that time she was entirely relieved, and I believe has enjoyed good health ever since.

CASE II. Intermittent Pleurisy.—L. T., a man of 30, temperate habits, had lived for about eighteen months in a miasmatic region of country, but never had been attacked with intermittent fever. In the fall of 1838, during a sudden cold spell of weather, he was taken with pleuritis of left side, for which I bled him and administered some of the usual medicines. By the next day he was up and about, but did not exert or expose himself sufficiently to induce a second attack. On the day subsequent, however, at about the same hour as before, he was

again taken, and had severe pleuritic pains. I treated him as before, but soon decided upon a different course when the paroxysm was entirely over. The next day I began the use of the quinine, feeling convinced of the periodical nature of his complaint. It met my expectations. My patient recovered.

CASE III.—Intermittent Mania a Potu.—S. Bullock, a blacksmith, aged 28, intemperate habits of long standing, stout and athletic, sanguine-bilious temperament, was taken August 20th, 1838, with intermittent fever. By the first of September he was well, and commenced drinking ardent spirits. This he continued for several days, until, during his first sober moments, he was attacked with mania a potu. I adopted the sedative treatment. In about five hours after I commenced the use of opium, he appeared to be somewhat quieted, and seemed disposed to sleep. His delirium continued, however, for seven or eight hours longer, when it entirely ceased, and he sweat copiously. I thought it a case of very short standing, and myself very fortunate. But I was deceived; the patient continued rational a day, and was again seized with delirium. Again I used opium, and succeeded in putting him soundly to sleep. He awoke and felt perfectly well. The calm was again delusive. In 24 hours he was on his bed shoeing horses and making nails. I began to reflect upon the influence which his fever might have had upon his nervous system in rendering his present disease intermittent, and concluded to make trial of the quinine as soon as the next intermission occurred. I now gave him opium, and he slept soundly until the noise of some dogs awoke him. He was rational. I became more fully convinced that the patient needed quinine. The opium produced sleep, but did not relieve the disease. It appeared to require something of an anti-periodic nature to arrest it. I accordingly commenced the article in two grain doses, every two hours, and continued it day and night, until the period for the paroxysm. The patient escaped the delirium altogether, having used twenty-four grains of quinine. I neglected to say that I attended well to the condition of his bowels.

These, with two cases of dysentery similar to Case I., are all the cases of the kind I have witnessed. How shall we account for their intermittent character? Shall we attribute it to the direct agency of marsh miasm, or to the state of the system after having been subjected to intermittent fever? Account for it as we will, an intermitting state of the system seems to be necessary. We know that fevers are likely to be followed by local disease. In two of the cases just recorded, we have examples of the sequelæ of fever partaking of the character of the fever itself. The other presents the case of a disease putting on the character of another disease, caused by the general diffusion of a noxious agent—an endemic and epidemic disorder. This, I believe, is no more than what was noticed long ago by Sydenham.

Marshall, Illinois, May, 1839.

W. J. BARBER.

NEW HAMPSHIRE MEDICAL SOCIETY.

To the Editor of the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.

SIR,—The following are some of the proceedings of the New Hampshire Medical Society, at its last annual meeting.

Boscawen, June 13, 1839.

JAMES B. ABBOTT, Secretary.

The forty-eighth anniversary of this Society was holden at the Phoenix Hotel, in Concord, on Tuesday and Wednesday, the 4th and 5th instant.

Although the weather was somewhat unfavorable, a greater number of members attended than have been present for many years. A laudable and increased interest evidently exists for the welfare of the Society, and the promotion of true medical science. The younger members of the profession are coming forward with a zeal and activity truly commendable, and bid fair to fill those important and dignified stations which have been vacated by the death or removal of their worthy predecessors.

The following officers were elected for the ensuing year:—

Enos Hoyt, Northfield, President.

Luke Howe, Jaffrey, Vice President.

James B. Abbott, Boscawen, Secretary.

Dixi Crosby, Hanover, Treasurer.

COUNSELLORS.—John Carr, Sandbornton; John S. Elliot, Pittsfield; Stephen Drew, Milton; James S. Fernald, Barrington; Francis P. Fitch, New Boston; Richard Williams, Milford; Joseph Dalton, Brentwood; Edward B. Moore, Epping; John B. Dousman, Keene; James Bachelder, Marlborough.

CENSORS.—Moses Hill, Northwood; Richard P. J. Tenney, Loudon; John P. Elkins, New Durham; Joseph H. Smith, Dover; Josiah Bartlett, Stratham; Thomas Bassett, Kingston; Matthias Spalding, Amherst; Micah Eldridge, Nashua; Amos Twitchell, Keene; Luke Howe, Jaffrey.

DELEGATES TO MEDICAL INSTITUTION AT HANOVER.—Richard P. J. Tenney, Loudon; James Bachelder, Marlborough.

ORATORS FOR 1840.—Luke Howe, Jaffrey; Tho. Bassett, Kingston.

The following gentlemen were elected members of the Society. Levi G. Hill, Salisbury; Nahum Wight, Gilmanton; Jacob C. Hanson, Andover; Charles A. Savary, Hopkinton; John A. Dana, Newhampton; Edward B. Moore, Epping; and L. M. Knight, Thornton.

The usual routine of business was amicably disposed of; and among the various resolutions passed by the Society was the following relative to scarlet fever, which has so extensively, and in many instances *fatally* prevailed within a few years—"Voted, That a committee of correspondence, consisting of one from each district, be appointed to collect information respecting the treatment of scarlatina, and communicate it to the Secretary of this Society—to be reported by him at the next annual meeting."

The following resolution was also adopted—"Whereas the Medical Institution of Dartmouth College, having undergone an entire re-organization since the resignation of Professors Mussey and Oliver, *Resolved*, That we have full confidence in the ability of the new faculty, and will continue our efforts to promote the usefulness of the institution."

After spending a two days' session pleasantly, and it is hoped profitably, the Society adjourned sine die; and the members departed to their respective fields of labor, having bid adieu to the hospitable mansion where they have for many successive years experienced the kindness and liberality of Mr. Hutchins, the benevolent and distinguished owner.

PROPHYLACTIC AND CURATIVE POWERS OF TOBACCO.

[We have already alluded to the remarks of the editor of the Southern Medical and Surgical Journal on the subject which has called forth such various opinions from our correspondents. We copy them below. They occur, in that Journal, after the insertion of our first article on the subject of impaired voice.]

It may appear behind the present age of reformation to advocate, at this time, the use of an article so contrary to good manners—one supposed to be so foreign from the catalogue of our necessities of life—and one on which the prevailing spirit of reformation has seized with the hand of extermination. But we use opium in the service of humanity—an article which, for the correction of its abuses, calls into requisition a nation's power. And we would use alcohol itself, in any of its formulæ, from the distilled to the merely fermented—than which there is no article on which we look with more perfect hatred—nay, despise with a vengeance which would make us, if possible, thrust into Lethe's dark, sinking, hellish current, the last formulæ for its preparation, and know that the world would be greatly improved by suffering its privation for the prevention of its injuries—this article, we say, we would use for the saving of life, when other things would not do it. In like manner, we feel it a duty to advocate the use of tobacco, both as prophylactic and curative, in certain cases. We are pleased to see the intimations given by the editor of the Boston Journal, not only on account of the fact that they may lead to true etiology, without the knowledge of which, neither prophylaxis nor cure may be expected with any degree of uniformity.

We acknowledge that the suggestions relative to the prophylactic virtues of tobacco, in regard to the cases alluded to, are new to us; for we have been in the habit of looking at the chilling walls at the back of pulpits, against which clergymen often rest the upper part of the back, immediately after the exercise of preaching, as a cause of this disease. But as the "*minister's ail*," as it is called, is but of very limited extent in the South, we have had but little observation in such cases. We have, however, had some observation on the effects of the abandonment of the habitual use of tobacco, in causing a cessation of an habitual secretion from the mouth, and thereby greatly impairing

the perfection of guttural articulation, and in the production of coughs incurable by ordinary means; as well as the curative powers it exercises on resuming its use.

We had once the care of a case, in which the free chewing of tobacco was, with a view to the reformation of a bad habit, abandoned. In a short time the voice of the patient was sensibly impaired, both of its ease in exercise, and its fine perfection of sound. As the case progressed, a cough, increasingly troublesome and obstinate, made its appearance, which soon became most violent and convulsive. Many ordinary remedies were used, for the first six months, without the least beneficial result. At the end of this period our attention was directed to the case, and no ground was left unoccupied which had hitherto been found beneficial in the treatment of coughs in such a state of the general system. A consultation was held, but all to no purpose, and the patient succumbed before the expiration of twelve months.

Not long after this observation, we became perfectly familiar with another case of impaired voice, and subsequent cough, which progressed by the same gradations as that just described, from the first of January, the time at which the chewing of tobacco was suddenly abandoned, until the first of July. Observations on this case proved it to be very peculiarly like the fatal case just given. We had observed closely the progress of this difficulty from the time the tobacco was discontinued. At the end of six months the cough was quite as far advanced as in the former case; not allowing the patient twenty minutes' sleep at any one time, and attended by a remarkable impairment of the vocal powers, and those of deglutition. This patient resumed the free use of tobacco, by chewing; but in order to avoid as far as possible the injurious stimulating and narcotic effects, the very weakest was selected, instead of that strong tobacco which is sold at the highest prices. By the Christmas following, the soreness of the thorax and the cough were measurably but not entirely subdued; the voice and deglutition both improved, but were not perfectly corrected. It is now some eight or nine years since this case occurred, and there is still a tendency to frequent but not severe cough, and there is still an evident deficiency of the power of propelling downwards from the upper part of the pharynx, so that all things pass on without further effort for deglutition.

We could give numerous cases in which, with the strongest marked predisposition to phthisis pulmonalis, persons have, under the free use of tobacco, contrary to all reasonable expectation, grown old, in perfect exemption from its ravages.

We will only further remark at present, that the impairment of voice amongst clergymen is of very rare occurrence in this section, whilst the practice of using tobacco, either in chewing or smoking, and most commonly the former, is almost universal. We have at present in mind, one clergyman, remarkable for the length of time, and the quantity of his labor in the ministry for the time, in addition to the labors of school teaching, through a long life, who is never awake, we believe, without having a remarkable quantity of tobacco in his mouth, except when eating; nor is he less remarkable for the quantity of saliva which he accu-

mulates immediately around him. This man has outlived the youth of his youngest children; he came, early in life, to the ministry, and the wife of his youth died at the age of sixty, some ten or twelve years since. No man of his age retains the voice of his early life in greater perfection. He is yet as pleasant in the pulpit as ever, and modulates his voice with great pleasure to the softest melodies of his old recollection, in which he greatly delights.

We hope observations will be made by practitioners on this subject, and promptly reported to the profession.

[A succeeding number of the same Journal contains the communications of Drs. Woodward and Mauran, from our pages, with the following introductory remarks by the editor.]

In the last number of this Journal we gave an extract from the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal, with some additional remarks and facts, on the same subject as the following communications. The subject is an important one, and highly worthy of the consideration of the profession. We are happy to find that it is now under discussion. As our object is useful truth in medicine, we give the following articles from the same source, in order that the reader may have materials, as far as furnished, for his own judgment on the subject. Meanwhile, we will state that, a few days past, we accidentally met with an intelligent medical gentleman of considerable experience in the profession, from the low country, who, on the suggestion of the subject, stated that a gentleman of the city in which he resided, had been a free indulger in the use of tobacco—that after becoming a pious man he abandoned it, perhaps from moral impressions relative to its use, and became what is termed “an exhorter,” to some extent. In the course of four or five years he found himself seriously injured in his vocal organs. The use of tobacco was resumed—not, that we understand, as a remedy. Subsequently to the re-adoption of its use, however, the symptoms of the throat complaint disappeared, and he has remained to the present time, now several years, exempt from all the distresses, privations, and threatenings of this hitherto intractable disease.

The claims of humanity are high; and in no instance more so than when preferred by the suffering clergy; but in all cases they are sufficient to overrule, if necessary, the formalities of fashionable etiquette, or the unpleasantness of a remedy. These cannot, therefore, we conceive, be advanced in argument on the subject, which is indeed of vital importance, and one which should rest on statistical facts alone. We hope, therefore, that intelligent citizens generally, as well as physicians, will feel themselves duly impressed with the duty of reporting any fact which may be calculated to determine the true influence of tobacco in regard to the cases alluded to; and we hope further, that both physicians and patients will examine well the authentic facts which have been, and may be, offered, and yield to the cause of truth as developed by facts alone.

BOSTON MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL.

BOSTON, JUNE 26, 1839.

JAMES HERVEY PIERREPOINT, M.D.

WERE it not for a most appropriate and truly beautiful memoir of the late lamented Dr. Pierrepoint, of Portsmouth, N. H., by the Rev. Dr. Burroughs, of that town, whose eulogy on his life and character exhibits the distinguished moral worth and high professional attainments of the subject of an excellent discourse, we could not have sympathized, as we now do, in the great loss sustained by those who were gathered together to mourn over the lifeless remains of one whom they had delighted to honor. At the special request of the medical faculty of the place, Dr. Burroughs was requested to deliver the eulogy to which these observations refer, on the 28th of January. It commences thus:—"Colossians, Chap. iv., v. 14—*The beloved physician*;" and the author shows, most clearly, that the subject upon which he was called upon to speak, gave elevation to his own thoughts, and thus he was the better qualified to impress the listening multitude with a profound sentiment of respect for the memory of a good man, whose existence had been a blessing in his day and generation—one in whom there was no guile, and whose firm reliance on the divine promises enabled him to exclaim, in the last agony of expiring nature—"Oh! what delightful tranquillity."

By carefully studying the pages of this performance, we perceive that Dr. Pierrepoint was not properly appreciated in early life. It was a misfortune not to have reached the meridian of professional eminence, till age, in some measure, disqualified him for assuming that commanding position which youthful ambition prompts most men to obtain. He became distinguished too late. This was not his fault, but a misfortune; the loss was to a community which might have had more of his service, had the constitution of his mind and its various powers been seasonably discovered.

Such integrity, parental kindness, universal philanthropy and practical usefulness, as Dr. Pierrepoint is represented to have possessed, appear to have resulted from a deep conviction of the urgent necessity of conforming to the requisitions of that divine system of faith, which a benevolent moral Governor of the universe has revealed to man in the gospel. Feeling that this is but the beginning of an endless existence—a preparatory state in which the faculties of the soul are only indicating their latent powers, to be unfolded in the ceaseless duration of eternity, Dr. Pierrepoint was too conscientious to waste the precious privileges and opportunities of the age to acquire knowledge: thus each succeeding year gave him higher and stronger claims upon the confidence and admiration of society.

Peculiar habits of study and untiring devotion to the learning of others, prevented him from embodying his own thoughts and experience; posterity, therefore, will be but partially benefited by his profound acquisitions. Physicians, engaged in the active and generally distracting pursuits of practice, have less opportunity than almost any other class of persons for constructing finished, permanent literary or scientific records in a country like this, where all is bustle, activity and restless enterprise. Much as

it is to be lamented that the vast amount he had stored in a well disciplined mind, is lost now to the world, the moral excellence which such an unblemished reputation as that of the "beloved physician" is calculated to exert, must and will have the happiest influence on that wide circle of which he was the friend and counsellor.

Being prepossessed neither in favor of the eulogist nor the eulogised, both of whom were unknown to us before taking up the pamphlet which called forth the foregoing expressions, we cannot conclude without cordially recommending this singularly captivating eulogistic biography to all young physicians. It points the way to usefulness, teaches the responsibilities and relations of the profession, individually as well as collectively, and lastly, but most triumphantly, shows the glorious prospects connected with a well-spent life.

Simplicity of Living.—A second edition of a small, but beautifully printed volume, bearing, beside the above cognomen, the additional title of *Observations on the Preservation of Health*, has been received from London, by Mr. Ticknor, Washington street, and deserves more attention than it will probably receive at the hands of the reading public. Its claims are based upon its simplicity—being purposely designed for the instruction of those who can appreciate the kind of information it imparts, without being perplexed with technicalities which belong to the language of science. It abounds with curious facts, which forcibly illustrate the importance of knowing how to live in infancy, childhood, youth, maturity, and old age, which the profession, and certainly the philanthropist, might study to good advantage. Without being absolutely radical in dietetics, the author inculcates the necessity of simplicity in diet, temperance, and obedience to those natural laws on which good health positively depends. There is one fault in this, discoverable in the other popular essays of Mr. Curtis, which operates unfavorably on the mind of the reader, but which might easily be corrected, viz., the air of egotism that shows itself, here and there, in spite of the drapery introduced to conceal it. The statistical facts variously introduced, add greatly to the interest of the book; and the lecturer on hygiene would find it a most convenient manual of reference. Were it re-published here, pruned of those excesses which mar its beauties for an American student, it could not fail, we apprehend, of having a multitude of admirers.

State Prison Practice.—Within a few days there has been sent to the address of this Journal, two numbers of a paper published at Auburn, N. Y., called the *Corrector*, which seems to be exclusively devoted to the interest of certain persons, whose names have been made familiar to the public in connection with the development of alleged cruelties on the part of the officers, towards the convicts in the State Prison, located in that town.

In one of these papers, Dr. Lansing Briggs, the physician of the institution, figures conspicuously in what he probably considers a vindictory appeal to the good sense of the world, and endeavors most earnestly to show that in all that he had to do with the unfortunate inmates, his course was judicious and not reprehensible. Eight entire columns are presented in the form of a critical analysis of the causes of the death of a certain Von Eck, who died suddenly in prison, but whose death was at-

tended with circumstances that resulted in a careful examination by a jury of inquest. This Von Eck was a foreigner, who for awhile practised physic in an obscure section of Maryland.

After reading and re-reading Dr. Briggs's disclaimer, with a hope of finding an apology for him, and that he was an abused, injured and persecuted man, we must acknowledge that we cannot justify him in turning over a prisoner to be flogged, because he did not discover any symptoms of illness. "First," says Dr. Briggs, "he affected sudden faintings, but was detected in his second effort by my being accidentally at the hospital during the attempt. His next *ruse* was a pretended paralysis. From an examination of his cell I was satisfied he feigned it, and made use of every suasive effort in my power to induce him to go peaceably to his shop, but without success, and proposed to Capt. Lynds a flogging, as a last resort, to make him obedient." This proposal was unworthy a medical officer, savoring, as it does, of those dark periods in the history of barbarism, when power was exhibited with impunity by the unrestrained cruelties of the lash.

According to the testimony of one Richardson, the castigation was given only two weeks before the death of the wretched convict. Were it not extremely painful to pursue the narrative, many particulars of the unhappy patient's condition, appearance and complaints, might be copied; but as it is the intention, doubtless, to circulate the *Corrector* so universally that all those accused of having participated in the late inhumanities of that particular prison, may be exonerated from blame, Dr. Briggs's history of Von Eck's indisposition and death should be closely examined. He says, "Von Eck died of congestion of the brain. I reported to the agent and inspectors, on the day of his death, and subsequently to the coroner's jury, that the disease was congestive typhus." The body was examined 36 hours after death. "On opening the chest, the lungs were found adhering to the sides, filled with tubercles, and congested with blood, as usual. In abdomen, ulcers were found in the track of the large intestines, in different degrees of progression." It is no part of our purpose to attempt to show that it is not strictly true, that he died of congestive typhus; but we shall not hesitate to declare that it was abominable in Dr. Briggs to be instrumental, in any manner whatever, in the infliction of the punishment by cat-o'-ninetails, on the poor, degraded, sickly outcast. We cannot divest ourselves of the opinion that Von Eck was not only greatly enfeebled, but actually partially insane, weeks before—produced, for aught we know, by his vices and the misery which thickened upon him from day to day, till death made his frail body insensible to the overseer's severities.

It will be conceded that in theory, at least, in the United States, the law contemplates the moral reformation of the criminals immured within the gloomy walls of penitentiaries, and therefore the principles of christianity and paternal benevolence are to be exercised by those to whose keeping the violators of the law are confided. But when the intention of the Legislature is perverted, and the worst passions of our nature are allowed to get the ascendancy, it behooves the people to look to the conduct of their servants with a vigilant eye.

Much as we abhor the awful abuse of power in some of our State prisons, so wickedly winked at by those who hold a controlling influence, it would be ungenerous not to acknowledge the difficulties with which the physician of such villains must necessarily contend. He must be untiring and watchful indeed, not to be occasionally deceived. If, however, deceptions are played off, he cannot be justified in being privy to corporeal

chastisement. It is his province to prescribe medicine and diet, but not to prescribe a flogging, the conclusive evidence of insensibility of heart and a depraved moral sense.

Were it not that Dr. Briggs feels quite strongly that he has grossly committed himself, it seems impossible that such a labored vindication should have been published—apparently at the expense of a clique of self-considered martyrs. From the style and ready citation of authorities bearing even the slightest analogy to his flogged patient's case, Dr. Briggs shows himself to be conversant with the best writers of the day. He is unquestionably thoroughly acquainted with his profession; yet it will be a long while before he can efface the deep impression which the melancholy termination of that case of *congestive typhus* has made on the mind of one person, certainly, who has read attentively the columns of the *Auburn CORRECTOR*.

Animal Magnetism.—At the close of an elaborate and interesting "History of Animal Magnetism in France, Germany and England," in the last No. of the British and Foreign Medical Review, we find the following candid remarks.

"Over the other details of London magnetic experience we willingly draw a veil. Our object has not been to give expression to our feelings, but to present to the reader's consideration an historical record, which may be reflected upon with some benefit. Neither would we be so far influenced by the impostures occasionally practised under the name of magnetism, as wholly to deny that some of the phenomena, from time to time produced by all aspirers to the art, seem to result either from some principle heretofore unknown and not yet correctly designated, or from some modification of recognized principles in the animal economy which cannot yet be accurately limited or defined. The whole of man's existence is too mysterious, and he is surrounded by too many things utterly beyond his comprehension, to justify an obstinate disbelief of things hard to be understood. In the constant attempts of the human intellect to penetrate the thick curtain that hangs around it, doubtless some transitory glimpses of hidden truths are now and then accorded to quick intellects and peculiar organizations; and there is ever much more in heaven and earth "than is taught in our philosophy." The temporal guides of man, however, are his senses and his reason; and when he lays claim to a wisdom and to powers which are incapable of being made palpable to the one or explicable to the other, although we may not presume to say that he cannot possibly be right, he must expect that we make very diligent use of our own senses and our own reason in the investigation of his evidence; and industriously endeavor to untwist the double chain of truth and fancy, which he would fain twine round our puzzled understandings."

Hopkins Medical Association.—At a meeting of the Hopkins Medical Association, holden in Hartford, Conn., June 12th, the following officers were chosen: Archibald Welch, M.D., President; Amariah Brigham, M.D., Vice President; Denison H. Hubbard, M.D., Recording Secretary; G. B. Hawley, M.D., Corresponding Secretary; Daniel Holt, M.D., Treasurer. Dr. J. Barrett, of Middletown, read a dissertation on *Autumnal Catarrh*, and Dr. A. Welch, of Wethersfield, a dissertation on *Dysentery*. Dr. G. W. Russell was chosen a Fellow, and Dr. M. L. North, of Sara-

toga, N. Y., Corresponding member of the Society. Dr. Silas Fuller and Dr. W. H. Morgan were appointed Dissertators for next meeting.

Medicinal Properties of the Gray Oxide of Zinc. By Professor Sementini.—From a series of experiments made on the white and gray oxides of zinc (the latter discovered by himself), Professor Sementini, of Naples, draws the following conclusions: 1. The oxide of zinc possesses tonic properties, which it derives from its soothing the irritability of the nervous system; it is also anti-spasmodic and sedative. 2. This has long been known, but the use of the medicine has been abandoned, from the inconstancy of its effects. 3. That inconstancy arises from the facility with which it absorbs carbonic acid, and hence passes to the state of a subsalt. 4. The gray oxide does not absorb the acid, and is therefore always of uniform strength. 5. As the properties of a tonic and a sedative co-exist in it, it may be used with the greatest confidence in cases of *irritative debility*. The dose to begin with, is from a fourth to half a grain, which may be increased to four or six grains, by an addition of a quarter of a grain every second day.—*Giornale dell. Sc. Med. Chir.*

Veratrine.—Veratrine resembles strychnine and buncine in its effects upon living bodies, producing tetanus and death in a moderate dose; notwithstanding which it has been prescribed by some, especially when mixed with hog's lard, in the form of frictions, on the forehead, for nervous maladies, but seldom, I believe, with any good effects.—*Ure's Dic. of Arts.*

Parisian Medical Society.—An English Medical Society, bearing the above name, has been recently instituted at Paris, and already includes on its list between ninety and one hundred members. At one of the late meetings Sir R. Chermiside was elected President, and J. Godfrey, Esq., Vice President, for the present year. The Society holds weekly meetings, at which papers upon medical subjects are read, and discussions take place in the *English language*. These meetings are peculiarly interesting, as medical men from London, Edinburgh, Dublin, and different parts of America, join in the proceedings, as well as some of the "externes" and "internes" of the Parisian hospitals. The Society has established a reading room for the English and French periodicals, and the nucleus of a permanent library is already in existence.—*London Lancet.*

Medical Miscellany.—Dr. J. B. S. Jackson was elected by the Mayor and Aldermen of Boston, by five out of eight votes, physician of the South Boston City Institutions. In the Common Council, when sent down for concurrence, Dr. Asa B. Snow, of this city, had 28 out of 47 votes; Dr. J. B. S. Jackson, 12; Dr. John S. Butler, of Worcester, Mass., 5; Dr. Wm. Ingalls, Jr., and Dr. Stebbins, 1—so that Dr. Snow was elected on the part of that board. In the next number of the *Journal* the successful candidate's name will probably be given. The applicants for the office have been quite numerous, from the country as well as city.—A new edition of Dr. Sewall's *Examination of the Science of Phrenology* has appeared, greatly improved.—A gentleman of Pottsville, Penn., has recovered of a man who frightened his daughter, \$200, the expense of her illness, produced by the shock given the nervous system.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.—The papers of Drs. Metcalf, Plympton, Allen and Magoon, have been received.

MARRIED.—In Boston, Dr. James H. Eldredge, of E. Greenwich, R. I., to Miss Anna F. A. Henshaw.

Whole number of deaths in Boston for the week ending June 22, 26. Males, 14—females, 12. Enlargement of the heart, 1—scarlet fever, 3—teething, 2—inflammation of the lungs, 1—suicide, 1—drowned, 2—unknown, 1—intemperance, 2—scrofula, 2—infantile, 2—lung fever, 1—pleurisy, 1—cholera morbus, 1—cancer, 1—disease of the heart, 1—child-bed, 1—typhous fever, 1—hooping cough, 1—lock-jaw, 1—stillborn, 4.

MEDICAL LECTURES: DARTMOUTH COLLEGE.

The annual course of Lectures in the New Hampshire Medical Institution will commence at Hanover on Thursday, the 7th of August, 1859, and be continued 14 weeks, by the following members of the Faculty.

JOHN DELANATH, M.D., Professor of Materia Medica, Obstetrics, and Diseases of Women and Children.

SWYMER W. WILBANS, M.D., Lecturer on Medical Botany and Medical Jurisprudence.

ELI CROSBY, M.D., Professor of Surgery and Surgical Anatomy.

ELIENA BARTLETT, M.D., Professor of Theory and Practice of Physic and Pathological Anatomy.

OLIVER P. HUBBARD, M.D., Professor of Chemistry and Pharmacy.

OLIVER WINSLOW HOLMES, M.D., Professor of Anatomy and Physiology.

F. A. HERR, A.M., Demonstrator of Anatomy.

Fees for the course, \$50.00. Matriculation, \$3.00. Graduating expenses, \$18.00.

OLIVER P. HUBBARD, Secretary.

Hanover, N. H., June, 1859.

June 26—St

PRIVATE MEDICAL INSTRUCTION.

THE subscribers are associated for the purpose of giving a complete course of medical instruction. Their pupils will have regular access to the medical and surgical practice of the Massachusetts General Hospital. They will be admitted, also, to the practice of the House of Correction, which constantly presents a large number of important cases, and where opportunities will be afforded for acquiring a practical knowledge of compounding and dispensing medicines. They will be furnished with opportunities for the study of Practical Anatomy, not inferior to any in the country. To the pupils, particularly to those in the last year of their professional studies, facilities will be afforded for acquiring a personal acquaintance with private medical and obstetric practice. Instruction by examination or lectures will be given in the different branches of medical studies, during the interval between the public lectures of the University. Books, and a room with fire and lights, will be furnished to the students at the expense of the instructors.

GEORGE C. SHATTUCK,
WALTER CHANNING,
JOHN WARE,
GEORGE W. OTIS JR.,
WINSLOW LEWIS, JR.

Oct. 31—eptf

DR. HULL'S UTERO-ABDOMINAL SUPPORTER.

THIS new instrument for the radical cure of Prolapsus Uteri, or falling of the Womb, by external application, superseding the use of the objectionable pessary, is confidently recommended to the afflicted as the means of a perfect restoration to health, it never having failed of performing a cure, even under the most aggravated circumstances. It has received the decided approbation of Sir Astley Cooper, of London; Sir Benjamin C. Brodie; Sir James Clark, Physician to the Queen; Dr. Ashwell, Lecturer on Midwifery to Guy's Hospital; Dr. Rigby, Lecturer to St. Bartholomew's; Dr. Griffith, Lecturer to Westminster Hospital; Dr. Ramsbotham, Lecturer to London Hospital; Robert Ferguson, Lecturer to Westminster Lying-in Hospital; Dr. Sweetman, Lecturer to Middlesex Hospital, and Senior Accoucheur to Queen Charlotte's Lying-in Hospital; also by Henry, Davies, Conquest, Blundell, Paris, and Accoucheur to the Duchesse d'Orléans; Prof. Moreau, President of the Académie Royale de Médecine, and others—and in New York by Professor J. W. Francis; G. S. Bedford, M.D. Professor of Midwifery in University of City of New York; Professor Delafield, Prof. Francis U. Johnson, Pres. County Medical Society; Laurens Hull, Pres. Med. Society State of New York; Prof. James McNaughton, Albany; Professors March, Cyrus Perkins and Doane; James Webster, Prof. Anatomy and Surgery, Geneva; David L. Rogers, Prof. Surgery, Geneva College; Drs. Thomas Boyd, Gilbert Smith, Russell, Stearns, Ludlow, Kissam, Vache, Fowler, Grayson, Van Rensselaer, and many other distinguished physicians of the United States.

AMOS G. HULL, Office 4 Vesey St. Astor House, N. York.

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Feb. 22—2m

TO PHYSICIANS.

A PHYSICIAN who wishes to relinquish the practice, can hear of one of experience who would be glad to occupy his stand, and who can give the most unexceptionable references as to character, &c., by addressing a line to the editor, post paid.

June 19—3t

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